REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-21, 23-30, 32 and 33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 16, 24, 26, 29 and 30 are amended and claims 7 and 22 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 30 can be found at least in Figs. 7, 9 and/or 10. Claims 10, 16, 24, 26 and 29 are amended for form and/or for dependency. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Storey and Poon in the April 21, 2009 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The drawings are objected to for allegedly failing to illustrate the features of claims 7 and 22; and claims 7 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The objection and rejection are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 7 and 22. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and rejection.

Claims 16 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. By this Amendment, claims 16 and 21 are amended responsive to the rejections. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 16, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 1, 16, 24 and 25 are amended such that all of claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 16, 24 and 25 now comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kozuka (JP 2000-101803). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kozuka does not teach every claimed feature of independent claim 29. Kozuka does not teach "a resolution setting portion that receives said start signal and said clock pulse

signal, and selects one of a plurality of on-off control patterns of said plurality of channel selector switches, based on a combination of on-off states of said start signal and on-off states of said clock pulse signal," as recited in independent claim 29 (emphasis added).

The Office Action acknowledges that the on-off state of the clock pulse signal CLK of Kozuka is detected at the moment of the rising of signal A, and the moment of rising of signal A changes based on the pulse width of the start signal SP (see Office Action, page 11; see also Fig. 3(a) and paragraph [0026] of Kozuka). In other words, the start signal SP of Kozuka determines the moment of rising of signal A, and in doing so, the start signal determines the moment at which the on-off state of the clock pulse signal CLK is detected (see paragraphs [0059] and [0060] of Kozuka).

However, in Kozuka, the clock pulse signal CLK is the only signal detected for the purposes of selecting an image resolution — the start signal SP is not itself selected for the purposes of selecting an image resolution (on-off control pattern) (see Fig. 3 and paragraphs [0026], [0059] and [0060] of Kozuka). The start signal SP is placed in the off state when the on-off state of the clock pulse signal CLK is detected to select the image resolution value (see Fig. 3 of Kozuka). Put simply, the on-off states of the start signal SP and the clock pulse signal CLK are not both selected, in combination, in order to determine an image resolution (on-off control pattern). Therefore, Kozuka does not teach "a resolution setting portion that receives said start signal and said clock pulse signal, and selects one of a plurality of on-off control patterns of said plurality of channel selector switches, based on a combination of on-off states of said start signal and on-off states of said clock pulse signal," as recited in independent claim 29 (emphasis added). Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 12, 25-28, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Abe (JP 2000-185698). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Abe does not teach every claimed feature of independent claim 1. Abe does not teach "a third input terminal through which a second resolution setting signal is received from said external device, the third input terminal receiving the clock pulse signal as said second resolution setting signal," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that the clock pulse signal CLK of Abe corresponds to the resolution setting timing signal of independent claim 1, and asserts that the clock pulse signal CLK of Abe is input through the first input terminal (see Office Action, page 12). However, amended claim 1 now recites that the claimed clock pulse signal is the second resolution setting signal input through the third input terminal. As the Examiner acknowledges on page 12 of the Office Action, the first and second resolution setting signals of Abe are A0 and A1. The clock pulse signal CLK of Abe is used as the resolution setting timing signal, not as the second resolution setting signal (see Fig. 3 of Abe). Therefore, Abe does not teach "a third input terminal through which a second resolution setting signal is received from said external device, the third input terminal receiving the clock pulse signal as said second resolution setting signal," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

Abe also does not teach each and every claimed feature of independent claim 30. Abe does not teach "selecting one of a plurality of on-off control patterns of said plurality of channel selector switches, based on a combination of on-off states of the first resolution setting signal and on-off states of the second resolution setting signal ... wherein said second resolution setting signal is said clock pulse signal," as recited in independent claim 30 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that the clock pulse signal CLK of Abe corresponds to the claimed resolution setting timing signal of independent claim 30 (see Office Action, pages 15 and 16) and asserts that the start signal SI and the resolution switching signal A0, A1 correspond to the claimed first and second resolution setting signals, respectively (see Office

Action, page 16). Therefore, Abe does not recite that "the second resolution setting signal is the clock pulse signal," as recited in independent claim 30.

Further, the Office Action appears to assert that the start signal SI of Abe could be interpreted as the first resolution setting signal (see Office Action, page 16). However, the start signal SI of Abe is not used as a resolution setting signal. Rather, the signals A0, A1 are used for setting the resolution of the device (see Fig. 3 of Abe).

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 30 are patentable over Abe. Claims 12, 25-28 and 32, which variously depend from independent claims 1 and 30, are also patentable for at least their dependency on independent claims 1 and 30, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 9-11 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Abe in view of Kozuka (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,538; hereinafter "Kozuka2"); and claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 12, 13, 17-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kozuka2 in view of Abe. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kozuka2 and Abe, alone or in any permissible combination, do not teach every claimed feature of independent claim 1. Kozuka2 and Abe do not teach "the third input terminal receiving the clock pulse signal as said second resolution setting signal; and a resolution setting portion that ... selects one of a plurality of on-off control patterns of said plurality of channel selector switches, based on a combination of on-off states of the first resolution setting signal and on-off states of the second resolution setting signal," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

Independent claim 1 is patentable over Abe for at least the reasons discussed above. Kozuka2 does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Abe.

Kozuka2 merely relates to setting a high resolution mode when a resolution switching signal MODE is in a high state, and setting a low resolution mode when the signal MODE is in a low state (see col. 6, lines 27-31 of Kozuka2). The outputs of the light receiving elements 4 (i.e., pixels) of Kozuka2 are sequentially read in the high resolution mode, and the outputs of adjacent pixels are simultaneously read in the low resolution mode (see Fig. 4 and col. 6, lines 49-53 of Kozuka2). In other words, either the high or low resolution mode is selected on the basis of only the on-off state of the resolution switching signal MODE (see Fig. 4 of Kozuka2). The clock signal CLK of Kozuka2 is not used as a second resolution setting signal for setting a high or low resolution mode.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable over Abe and Kozuka2. Claims 2, 4-6, 8-13, 17-21, 23 and 33, which depend from independent claim 1, are also patentable for at least their dependency on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

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